

The Married Mans Lesson:

OR,

Adiffwafion from Iealoufie.

To the tune of, *All you that will wooe a wench.*



You men who are marri'd come hearken to mee,
I'll teach you a Lesson if wife you will be,
Then take my advice that's intended for good,
and so 'tis if it be but well understood:
I will cause you to shun all contention and spleene,
that daily betwixt man and woman are seene,
I speake against ielousie that monster fierce,
and wish I could conquer the fiend with my verse,
O Be not thou ielous I pray thee deere Lad,
for ielousie makes many good women bad.

If thou have a good wife then I thee advise
to cherish her well for she is a rare prize,
If she be indifferent betwixt good and bad,
good meanes to reioyce, for she may easily be had:
If she be so evill that there is few worse,
imagin thy sinnes have deserued that curse,
Then beare with true patience thy crosse as 'tis fit,
and thou to a blessing thereby maist turne it.
But be not, &c.

Betwixt these 3. winds the good, bad, & the meane,
I ground the whole argument of this my Theme,
For in them a mans humane blisse, or his woe,
doth chiefly consist as experience doth shew:
Thus is it not counsell that's worthy regard,
which teacheth to soften a thing that is hard,
And what I intend is in every mans will,
to turne to a vertue what sameth most ill.
Then be, &c.

A wife that is good being beautifull, may
perhaps raise suspicion that she'll goe astray,
Note the fond humours that most men possesse,
they'r neither content with the more nor the lesse,
For if she be homely, then her husband will fight,
to such neither faire, nor soule, can yeeld delight,
If once he be ielous the other hee scornes,
there's no greater plagues then imagined hornes.
Then be not, &c.

A wife that's indifferent betwixt good and ill,
is shee that in huswifery shewes her good will,
Yet sometimes her voyce shee too much elevates,
is that the occasion for which her husband hates:
A soveraigne remedy for this disease,
is to hold thy tongue let her say what shee please:
Judge, is not this better then to fight and scratch,
for silence will soonest a divorce overmatch.
However I pray thee shun ielousie Lad,
for ielousie makes many good women bad.

A wife that's all bad if thy lucke be to have,
seek not to reclaim her by making her slave,
If she be as bad as ever trod one ground,
not fighting nor ielousie will heale that wound:
For marke when a River is kept in its course,
it overflowes the bankes then the danger is worse.
Thy owne good example and patience with all,
may her from her vices much rather recall.
Then be not, &c.

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The second part. To the same tune.



A wife that is vertuous in every respect,
 In who doth her vow'd duty at no time neglect,
 Shas not free from censure, for soles their bolts
 as oft at the head as they doe at the foote: (Shote
 A kisse, or a smile, or a Jest, or a dance,
 familiar discour's or an amorous glance,
 All these as her witness enby doth bring,
 the credit of innocent women to King.
 But be not thou jealous I pray thee deare Lad,
 for jealousie makes many good women bad.

A wife that's indifferent if curb'd over much,
 will grow worse & worse for their nature is such,
 The more thou with rigour dost seeke her to mend,
 the more they'll persist, and grow desperat i'th end,
 And thus from indifferency wanting good meanes,
 Some wel meaning women turn impudēt queans,
 if goodnesse by beating thou seek'st to infuse,
 For breaking her flesh thou all goodnesse dost use.
 Then be not, &c.

A wife at the worst (as I told you before)
 a drunkard, a sweater, a scold, these, or whoze,
 By gentle perswasions, reclaimed may be,
 my selfe by experience, but lately did see:
 A man that with jealousie plagued had bene,
 when hee the last labour and trouble had scene,
 hee cast off his care, and referd all to's wife,
 who some left her vices and led a new life.
 Then be not, &c.

I also have knowne a wife handsome and neate,
 of whom her fond husband did take a conceate,
 That other men lov'd her because shee was faire,
 though on the contrary, to him shee did sweare:

Hee watcht her, hee ey'd her, hee noted her wayes,
 and once hee in's drinke, he a scandall would raise,
 This usage irregular let her on fier,
 & so from thence forward shee provd him no lger,
 Then be not, &c.

Consider each circumstance with good regard,
 how oft cause lesse jealousie wins due reward,
 And likewise I wish thee to beare in thy best,
 that patience and quietnes still is the best.
 For if shee benought shee le grow worse with restraint
 but patience may make of a harlot, a Saint,
 If faire meanes prevaile not, thou'lt ne're do't by
 for mekenesse (if any thing) must win a soule (soule)
 Then be not, &c.

Now lastly to both men and women I speake,
 from this foolish fancy their humors to breake,
 Be loving and tractable each unto other,
 and what is amisse let affection still smother:
 So shall man and wife in a sympathy sweet,
 at boorde, and at bed (as they ought to doe) meete,
 All fighting and scratching, and scolding shall cease,
 where jealousies harbord there can be no peace.
 Then be not thou jealous I pray thee deare Lad,
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FINIS.

Printed at LONDON for John Wright, the
 younger, dwelling at the Signe of the Sunne,
 at the lower end of Snow-hill, neere un-
 to Holborne Conduit. M. P.